

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1- 47 (Cancelled).

48. (Cancelled) A stabilized viral envelope protein comprising three parallel, α -helical COOH-terminal viral envelope glycoprotein monomers that together form a stable three-stranded coiled coil having a conformation like that of a native form of the viral envelope glycoprotein when associated with a cellular membrane, wherein the stabilized viral envelope protein is substantially incapable of undergoing a conformational change to become active for membrane fusion, and wherein the monomer comprises SEQ ID NO:8.

3 ~~48~~. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 ~~48~~, wherein the native form of a viral envelope glycoprotein is an HIV1 or HIV2 viral envelope glycoprotein.

4 ~~48~~. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 ~~48~~, wherein the native form of a viral envelope glycoprotein comprises three HIV gp41 monomers that form a trimeric coiled coil, in a prefusogenic conformation.

5 ~~48~~. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 ~~48~~, wherein the monomer is recombinantly produced.

6 ~~48~~. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 ~~48~~, wherein the monomer is synthetically produced.

53. (Cancelled) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil is stabilized by fusion of the monomer to an isoleucine zipper.

- 7 ~~54~~. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 ~~92~~¹, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil is stabilized by one or more point mutations.
- 8 ~~55~~. (Previously Presented) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim ~~54~~⁷, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil with one or more point mutations has SEQ ID NO:9.
- 9 ~~56~~. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim 48 ~~92~~¹, wherein the three-stranded coiled coil is stabilized by chemical cross-linking.
- 10 ~~57~~. (Previously Presented) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim ~~56~~⁴, wherein the gp41 monomers comprise SEQ ID NO:7.
- 11 ~~58~~. (Currently Amended) The stabilized viral envelope protein of claim ~~56~~⁴, wherein the gp41 monomers comprise ~~comprising~~ SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

Claims 59-91 (Cancelled).

- 1 ~~92~~. (Currently Amended) A stabilized viral envelope protein comprising three parallel, α -helical COOH-terminal viral envelope glycoprotein monomers that together form a stable three-stranded coiled coil having a conformation like that of a native form of the viral envelope glycoprotein when associated with a cellular membrane, wherein the stabilized viral envelope protein is substantially incapable of undergoing a conformational change to become active for membrane fusion, and wherein the monomer comprises SEQ ID NO:2, 3, 5, 7 or 9 fused to a GCN-4-pII peptide comprising residues 53 to 85 of SEQ ID NO:4.
- 2 ~~93~~. (Currently Amended) A stabilized viral envelope protein comprising three parallel, α -helical COOH-terminal viral envelope glycoprotein monomers that together form a stable three-stranded coiled coil having a conformation like that of a native form of the viral envelope glycoprotein when associated with a cellular membrane, wherein the stabilized viral envelope

protein is substantially incapable of undergoing a conformational change to become active for membrane fusion, and wherein the monomer comprises SEQ ID NO: 1, 2 or 4.